

BLUE CREW DANCE COMPANY

Blue Crew Dance is the *Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation's* youth Dance Company and was founded and is co-directed by community dancers and instructors Cynthia and Jimmy Marafino (both current instructors of dance at the Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation Department). The company is composed of dancers ages 12 through 18 and is designed for students who are enrolled in dance classes at the recreation center and meet skilled requirements.

Blue Crew Dance is committed in introducing and providing dance education and entertainment to the community. We have a mission to bring creative and meaningful choreography to our audiences. We want to educate our community and our youth in music and movement, increasing the awareness and importance of the arts.



PERFORMANCES:



Blue Crew Dance offers free live performances to school groups, public festivals, residential facilities, churches, and special event programs. **Blue Crew Dance** has a goal to serve as an educational establishment for the community and young dancers who want to excel in their technical ability, performance skill, and their enjoyment of dance.

Blue Crew Dance Company and Parks and Recreation hosted and participated in a dance workshop with the global educational organization *Up with People*. **Blue Crew** has had the opportunity to participate in a workshop with VCU alumni and professional Emily Todd, artists of the Liz Lerman Dance Exchange, artists from JMU dance alumni, artists from Rockingham Ballet Theatre, and local PT specialist, JMU dance Alumni, and Harrisonburg Dance Cooperative performer and choreographer, Sarah Gosselin. This winter, **Blue Crew** hopes to participate in a choreographic intensive with Harrisonburg Dance Cooperative's co-founder, New York artist, and Texas Christian University alumni, Jerusha (Ellie) de Waal.

Several members of **Blue Crew** performed in The New Dance Festival at the Forbes center, collaborating with the JMU School of Theatre and Dance (2010). **Blue Crew** has had the opportunity to perform at several venues including Burg's Got Talent, Dayton Church of the Brethren, Bridgewater College, Children's Museum, and Waterman and Spotswood Elementary.

If you would like to host **Blue Crew Dance** please contact:
Cynthia or Jimmy Marafino at
Email: clm_280@yahoo.com

Criteria for Blue Crew

Blue Crew Dance Company is the recreation center's youth dance company. It is reserved for those who take classes in the fall and spring semesters. Students must be enrolled in at least one dance class per-week at the recreation center, one of which must be in advanced jazz or ballet. Students must meet advanced skill requirements, must be 12 years of age (exceptions made based on maturity), and must have permission of both directors. Students must also have taken 2-3 consecutive years of dance (either in ballet or jazz) by one of the directors at Parks and Recreation and show progress. Students are expected to participate in and pay for classes, rehearsals, performances, workshops, or any other offerings by the company (t-shirts, costume fees, dues, etc.) Blue Crew focuses on modern, jazz, ballet, and contemporary dance forms. Any questions about the company need to be addressed to the directors.

Students are invited by the directors based on the following:

1. Students and parents dedication to our dance program
2. Number of years they have danced in our dance program
3. Consistency in classes (not skipping from one dance form to another)
4. Attendance in classes and the amount of classes taken
5. Must have danced consistently at Harrisonburg Parks and Recreation under the training of one or both of the directors for at least 2-3 consecutive years in the area of ballet or jazz. Exceptions are made based on the level of skill, progress, behavior, and dedication to our dance program
6. Behavior in class with fellow students, instructors, and guest instructors. Students must show respect to all faculty and fellow students
7. Age and maturity
8. Ability to adapt to new ideas and new choreography
9. Willingness to work in groups
10. Must take classes in the fall and spring semesters consistently
11. Must show advanced dance technique and performance quality
12. Must show willingness to take correction and improve on dance skills
13. Students should not talk out of turn or question directors, instructors, and guest choreographer's authority or decisions
14. Students must respect their fellow classmates and company members. They must accept seniority in the company and respect decisions and comments made by senior members of the company

